AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA   October 19, 2004

On Saturday, October 16, 2004, a Union Pacific cargo train crashed into homes in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles. Rail officials sited that a defect in a steel track was the probable cause of the break.   Twenty-five homes were impacted, two homes suffered irreparable damages and two more homes sustained minor damages.

This is a very disturbing development in the wake of last year's accident in the City of Commerce when a Union Pacific derailment damaged homes and terrified residents. Union Pacific must be held accountable for ensuring the safety of its tracks. These are the same tracks utilized by the Metrolink commuter lines each weekday. According to officials, rail tracks are monitored three times a week to identify problems. However, the safety of residents should be of utmost importance and measures should be in place to protect residents from future derailments.

I, THEREFORE MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors
a) instruct County Counsel to work with the Office of Emergency Management and appropriate first responders from the County to review and report back within 15 days

<u>MOTION</u>

Molina   _____

Burke   _____

Yaroslavsky   _____

Antonovich   _____

Knabe   _____

regarding safety issues related to fatigued rail tracks in unincorporated communities, with recommendations for safety in the unincorporated areas near railroad tracks, including but not limited to creating buffer zones in impacted communities and recommendations regarding the amendment of state laws related to railroad safety with particular emphasis on establishing special railroad track standards for rail operations in areas posing local safety hazards, pursuit of potential legal remedies for the residents and the County for the damages and costs caused in this instance and in others when Union Pacific violates its duty to maintain a safe right of way; and

b) direct County Counsel to request Union Pacific and the National Transportation Safety Board to submit to the Board a status report on its inspection of railroad tracks in Los Angeles County.

LO/jh